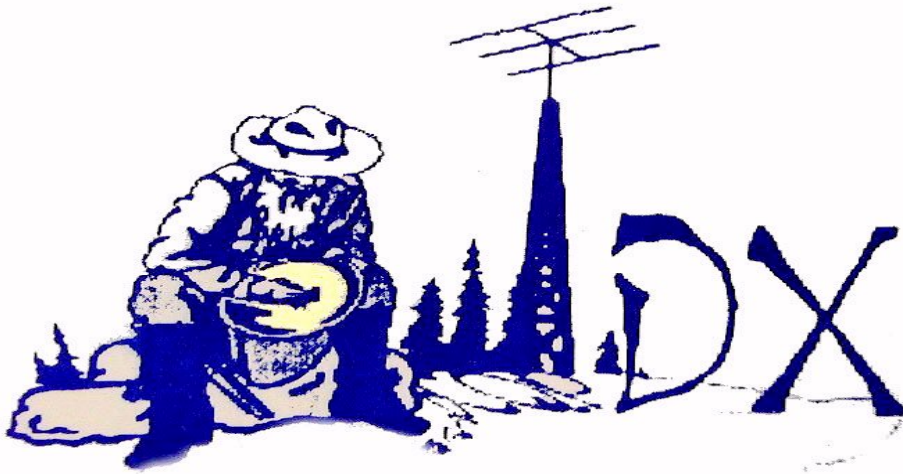


The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Saturday, 9 February 2013 at 11:30AM.

Where Los Pinos in Cameron Park at 11:30AM. Los Pinos is located at 3420 Palmer Drive in Cameron Park. See the club's website at <http://www.mldxcc.org/> and click on "meetings" for a map and more information.

What: The program will be on CQP log checking.

MLDXCC Meeting Dates:

9 February
April (no meeting. International DX Convention in Visalia).
December (no meeting)

2013-Officers

President – Bob, W1RH
Vice President – Rich, WC6H
Secretary – Kay, K6KO
Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD
Director – Ray, ND6S
Director – Shirl, AA6K



OUR MEMBERS AT THE JANUARY MEETING; MUNCHING AWAY.



BOB, W1RH CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS PART OF OUR MEETING



AI, AD6E GIVING US THE LOW-DOWN ON THE 3D2C DXPEDITION.

General Registration is now open for the International DX Convention from April 19-21, 2013 in Visalia, CA.

Complete details can be found on the IDXC website:

Convention Registration:
<http://www.dxconvention.com/pages/registration.html>

Hope to see you in Visalia soon!

**73,
John Miller, K6MM
Kevin Rowett, K6TD
2013 IDXC Co-Chairs**

A short BIO from Rick, K6LE

The Early Days

I was first licensed as KN6KPB in 1958 in Menlo Park.

Had a typical novice station at the time: AT-1, HQ-129-X, shortly after that I took the General and became K6KPB and the rig was upgraded to a Viking Adventurer and a 3 element Mosley TA-33 Jr. on a 20 foot mast outside the garage window so I could turn it using the vice-grips clamped to it. I could beat anyone to a new azimuth!

In 1959 we moved to Idaho Falls and I became K7IXE for a few months until we bailed out of Idaho and headed back to Hawaii.

Had KH6DLH for while but I was a

senior in high school and found lot's of, what I considered, more fun things to do.

Joining the Army in 1961 was the beginning of a 17 year lay-off from Ham radio.

Re-awakening

In 1979 I was living in Chicago and decided to get back in to the hobby.

Originally I was WD9INS followed quickly by KB9EW and then the next year became KB9E (a convenient coincidence since I was able to recycle my KB9EW QSL cards!).

Kept that call for about 16 years operating from Chicago, Minneapolis and then moved back to California in 1990).

All the while I was doing the best I could at working some DX among other interests such as Oscar-10 and 13.

TCDXA

While I lived in Minneapolis ('88-'90) I grew frustrated with what I considered the inefficiencies of listening to the local TCDXA FM repeater for spots. I had been playing with Packet Radio and started to hear stories of the "new" Packet Clusters.

I wasn't very successful in getting the group interested in "that darn packet stuff" so, except for a couple of people, I ran in to more hostility than interest in a Packet Cluster. So, over a

long Christmas holiday I decided to put one up and see what happened. I bought a 286 PC with a 20 Meg hard drive and bought the cluster software. Set it up on a frequency and listened to all the "boo-birds" on the FM repeater.

Luckily there was one active member (NOCIB at the time) that saw the benefit and pushed a couple of his friends to give it a try.

Within a month it was considered by most to be essential and even die hard opponents started using and enjoying not having to take off the cans and say "who was that? Where was he?" - every time there was a spot on voice.

As it turned out I got promoted back out here a couple of months later and the TCDXA decided to buy my computer, software and throw a going away and thank you dinner for me! Things certainly had changed quickly.

California again

When I moved back here in 1990 I was fairly active but mostly on satellite. I had lost interest in chasing awards because, quite frankly, I detest the paperwork involved in QSL'ing. I had gotten back in the hobby as a diversion from all the paperwork involved in running a business and didn't want to come home to do more paperwork.

Over the years I got tired of people asking me if I was vacationing from nine land and changed my call back to a 6 (K6LE). Along the way LoTW came

along and I was once again interested in chasing DXCC. For the last few years, with the constant prodding of K6YK, I have plodded my way to 260 Mixed.

Rig these days is an Elecraft K3/P3 and a 102' Dipole (converted G5RV) at about 35' fed with ladder line.

Outside Ham Radio

The activities that kept food on the table over the years were working for VW/Audi as a Service Field Rep, Technical Instructor and Region Service Manager. Also spent about 10 years in the Chicago area founding and running a Sports and Formula car distributorship and preparation shop.

A short BIO from John, K6YK.

Glad to be a new member of the MLDXCC. Nice to several old friends at the meeting.

I was licensed in 1957 as WN6YKS, upgraded to a technician as W6YKS for a few years during high school. I was too young to drive so got a technician license to keep my callsign. I was active on 6 meters for a couple of years at the height of the sunspot cycle in 1957/58. Then things died down and I got interested in the usual high school kids activities. I finally went up and upgraded to general and eventually extra class in 1965. The K6YK call came in 1976.

I was into traffic handling on NCN and RN6, that's where I met up with Dick, K6LRN and Jettie, W6RFF and many other fine operators. Between nets and 6 meter activities I was chasing after DX, WAS, WAC, WAZ, USA-CA, etc. It was a struggle with no knowledge, less than great equipment, antennas. I did it the hard way, I EARNED IT! Hi.

The current main station consists of IC-756's, Alpha 78, SB-220 and an A3S tri-bander for the high bands, wire dipoles for 80 and 40, and trap dipole for the WARC bands.



Tower #2, tri-bander and 6 meter beams

Spent a lot of time working VHF/UHF and OSCAR. Never made DXCC, but I'm still hoping for another Oscar 10 type satellite. Also spent some time giving out grid squares, states and counties on OSCAR. Since everybody needs Delaware! My favorite trip was to giving-out 2 of the 3 counties in Delaware on satellite.



John, K6YK working Oscar 14 from the Maryland/Delaware state line

I still chase DX, work some contests and like to work DX in the afternoons with the secondary station boat-anchors.



John, K6YK at the boat-anchor desk

Currently a Viking Ranger, Collins 51S-1 receiver, KWM-2, or Hallicrafters SR-160 and a Dentron Clipperton-L amp.

FROM THE PREZ

Hello MLDXCC'ers,

Welcome to February!

K6LRN made my day, yesterday, by letting me know that we placed #15 as a club in the 2012 CQ WPX contest. Minutes later, I heard from Dean, N6DE, that we placed 10th, in the Medium Club category, for the 2012 ARRL Sweepstakes, out of a total of 38 clubs submitting. Not bad for us foothill folks, eh? And, we did both scores without even trying for a major effort. Impressive!

I do think that this was our one and only opportunity to shine in Sweepstakes, and I blame myself for not pushing this contest a bit harder last year. I felt, at the time, that we had put a lot of effort and energy into CQP and needed a break. Unfortunately, SS is the next big contest, just days following CQP. I do think NCCC will make SS a focus contest again next year, giving us all incentive to support the big club.

Thanks to Alan, AD6E, for a terrific talk last month on the 3D2C Conway Reef dxpedition that he was fortunate enough to be a part of. It was also nice to see George, N6NKT, another 3D2C dxpedition operator, make a surprise appearance at our meeting. If you missed this meeting, you missed a good one!

I also want to thank Rich, WC6H, our VP, for arranging the restaurant details and making his fabulous office

conference room available for our January meeting.

As far as my station goes, I have a rebuilt Cushcraft A3S ready to go up on Tower #2, which should really help my SO2R performance. N6BV has determined that another tribander, 25 feet below the top tribander, would be a good combination for my location, so that will be the ultimate plan. I have a YCCC Stack-Match that will go into service once I find that second A3S. Up until now, the only antenna I have had on radio #2 has been an 80 meter delta loop, useable on all bands with my old Johnson Matchbox.

Ron, KK1L, has been selling a SO2R 6x2 antenna switch box and 2-radio band-decoder kit for some time now. This was another YCCC kit project. He sells the boards and has a parts list on his website. I ordered the parts for the relay card a couple of weeks ago and will begin assembling that shortly. There are several uses for this switch and band-decoder system and I'm not yet sure just how I'll use it. I'm thinking of purchasing a second relay board and having the band-decoders talk to my two FT-1000MP's to switch in band-pass filters between the radios and amplifiers. I have a set of ICE filters for 10-80 meters, but there are much better filters on the market.

Speaking of band-pass filters, Jim, K9YC, has done quite the study on various filters on the market. He has agreed to give us a talk on either this subject, common mode chokes, or 160 DX'ing on a small lot. Got a preference?

We only have a couple of weeks between meetings this month, due to the heavy January/February contest schedule. Our meeting will be on February 9th, and I'll be there!

de Bob, W1RH

THE VP SEZ

Good February to all, where did January go? I would like to thank Alan AD6E for a wonderful presentation at our January Meeting. The Visalia DX Convention this year is going to be at the Visalia Convention Center located in downtown Visalia. The convention dates are April 19 – 21st. You can pre-register now, just go to www.dxconvention.com. You may want to get your hotel reservations made before everything fills up. Our February's program will be all about unsolving the mystery of log checking. The program will be presented by our president Bob Hess, W1RH. Bob was one of the log checkers for the CQP contest. In speaking with Bob this will be an exciting and very informative presentation. The more we understand how the log checking program works the better. Bob is going to use my CQP log as an example. I try to be as accurate as possible, we will see. The November SS results are in, congratulation to the MLDXCC club we placed 10th in the medium club category. A total of 32 logs were sent in with a total score of 2,279,998 points. That's an average of 71,249 per log, great job to all. The SS contest is one of my favorite contests

(except on Sunday) it's a challenge with the long exchange. I managed to place 8th in the single op high power category and was the Pacific Division leader. Now we are getting ready for the WPX contest. The results were released for the 2012 SSB WPX contest; WC6H was in the multi two category. We placed 2nd in the US and 22nd in the world with the team of N6TV, NU6S, WX6V, N6RC, K6ST and WC6H. We are looking forward to improving our score in the 2013 WPX contest. That's about it from here. See you at the meeting.

73 Rich, WC6H

QSL OF THE MONTH

Bob, W1RH



This month's card comes from my collection.

I worked 1A0KM three times. Once, in August, 1998, on 80 meter CW, and twice in July, 2000, on 10 and 15 meter SSB. All contacts were made from my Massachusetts QTH.

Did you know that the Sovereign Military Order of Malta is a DXCC Entity? From the back of the QSL card:

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta is a fully independent entity with an ancient tradition and glorious history. SMOM was founded before the conquest of Jerusalem, in 1099, by the crusaders, and recognized in 1113, by Pope Pascal II. From 1310 to 1522, SMOM held the sovereignty of the island of Rhodes, and from 1530 to 1798, of the island of Malta. Then, after temporary Sees, the Order finally established itself in 1834 in Rome, where it holds several extraterritorial areas.

Its members are known as the "Knights of Malta". Under the provisions of International Law, the Order maintains diplomatic relations with 64 countries in the world as well as with many international organizations.

His most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grand Master of the Order rules over a world-wide organization dedicated solely, as its ancient tradition dictates, to providing assistance in the hospitaller, charitable, and social fields.

Regarding 1A0KM, which is located in the extraterritorial zone of "Villa Magistrale all 'Aventino", in Rome, Italy, special thanks are due to the Grand Magistracy for its assistance.

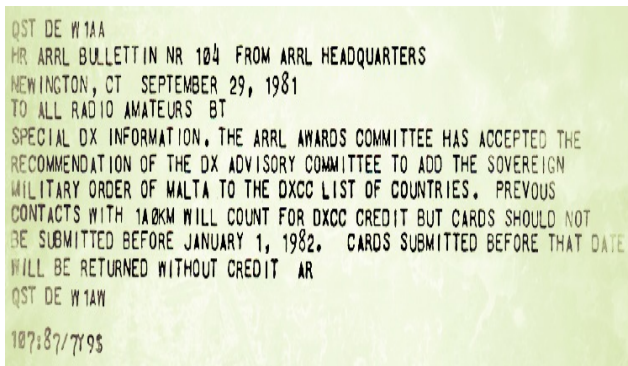
From G4UCJ's site.

Sometimes a station could be quite close geographically but still classed as DX because the area they are transmitting from is very rarely heard on radio, for instance take the station 1A0KM, operating from Italy. Italy is not usually classed as DX on the HF bands BUT the 1A0 prefix makes this part of Italy very rare. 1A0KM is the station of the 'Sovereign Military Order of Malta' which qualifies as a separate entity (or country as they used to be called). 1A0KM is only activated maybe once or twice a year at best and is only on for a few hours at a time (this is a deliberate decision by the SMOM), so trying to work this station is very difficult indeed

despite the fact it is only in Italy. It is not the signal strengths that stop you from working it—signals from this station are usually quite good. What does stop you is the sheer volume of other stations calling at the same time (a ‘PILE UP’!).

From the 1A0C website:

With this telegram, ARRL added the Sovereign Military Order of Malta as a DXCC Award eligible entity. Starting January 1st, 1982 the cards of QSOs with 1A began to be checked and approved to the great pleasure of all who would pursue DXCC. Now, some 30 years later thist the prefix is still quite needed by DXers from the amateur Radio community.



And, regarding the prefix, per Wikipedia:

Some call sign block ranges are unassigned by the ITU, e.g. the 1AA-1ZZ block. Any call sign used by an amateur in these unassigned block ranges usually had it assigned to them by a group with an unrecognized national claim. Unless otherwise noted, they have no value for DXCC awards.

- 1A is used by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta a Roman Catholic order based in Rome, Italy.^[14] This entity is recognized by ARRL for the DXCC program

To have your favorite QSL card featured, just email me an electronic copy or trust me with a hard copy and I will scan it and return it to you in same the condition I received it.

January 2013 Treasurer's Report

Balance January 1, 2013: \$1218.60

Income:
 Donation - AI6Y 5.00
 Dues:- ND6S, W6SR, AD6E,
 W6DE, W6VMT, AE6Y,
 W6RD, W6FI, WC6H,
 K6YK, K6OQ, K6LE,
 K6LRN, K6TKD 215.00

220.00

Expenses:
 Badges-WD6EIW, W6VMT 25.74
 Speaker's lunch-AD6E 19.00

44.74

Balance January 31, 2013: \$1393.86

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Treasurer

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV

Coolidge Dental X-Ray Tube of 1919

A few years before the invention of the vacuum tube, work was being done with gas discharge cathode ray tubes (no filament). In 1895, W. K.

Roentgen noticed that an unknown ray was being emitted from his CRTs screen. The ray wasn't affected by magnetism and it would pass through other objects. He set up an experiment to see what it would do to human tissue. He had his wife stick her hand into the beam along with a photographic plate. All the bones and her ring were visible. This unknown radiation he called "X-radiation". It is unknown what his wife called him.

X-rays were an exciting scientific subject and within a few months many people were experimenting. Thomas Edison was one of the first to warn of the danger caused by x-rays especially to the eyes. Eye protection was tried when taking dental x-rays. The early days of x-ray experimentation were marked by skin burns, blindness, death, deformed frogs and of course law suits.

In 1913, William Coolidge, who worked for General Electric (later Vice President), invented an x-ray tube that had a tungsten target and a hot cathode. This tube made modern x-rays possible, as the results were predictable. The rays could be channeled in a beam and the exposure time reduced. The electron beam was projected onto an angled tungsten target that was surrounded by copper for heat dissipation. Many different tubes were produced but in 1919 the first dedicated dental x-ray tube was made. The tube was angled so the equipment could get close to the patient's face. With an anode potential of 50,000 volts, precautions needed to be made. The 13-inch tube was encased in lead glass and had a

funnel like aiming tip. The anode was protected with Bakelite and some rods were formed to make a screen guard. The filament had a focusing reflector to direct the beam. Like most early x-ray tubes, the filament voltage was applied through a standard light bulb assembly. Some fins were attached to the anode end for heat dissipation.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi All....

Wow, first a great meeting with more of the club than I've seen in years. And two BIO's in one month from a couple of our new members, K6YK and K6LE. Thanks guys!

Not much going on here in the last couple of weeks, still in the design phase of the concrete base. K6OK is checking on the new building code requirements as well as any unusual stuff El Dorado county wants.

I did work HS0ZEE last week for a new one on 160M, other than that, lots of noise, poor conditions and no new ones.

Enough for now, see you all in Cameron Park on the 9th.....**de Rick, W6SR**

Member News, Items For Sale & ARRL Announcements

None this Month

Meeting Minutes, .

Meeting Minutes, 26 January 2013.

Following lunch at Habanero Hots Restaurant in Lodi, President Bob, W1RH, called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM at WC6H's office suite in Lodi, with 22 members and 9 guests present.

Introductions. Round-the-room introductions were made, including guests W6KJ, Ron, Sacramento Valley Section Manager and his

YL, JoAnne, N6YLO; Denise, WB6FSE, YL of Lyle, K6QG; Mary, YL of Norm, N6JV; Pat, K6OQ; Rick, K6LE; John, K6YK; George, N6NKT; and Steve, K6SCA.

Officers' Roll Call. Present were Bob, President; Carolyn, K6TKD, Treasurer; Kay, K6KO, Secretary; Shirl, AA6K, Director; Rick, W6SR, *Nugget* newsletter editor; and Norm, N6JV, website administrator.

Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report. The 10 November 2012 Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved as published in the January *Nugget* newsletter.

Upcoming DXpeditions/DX News. TK5K, Clipperton Island DXpedition, is expected to take place the end of March. A German group will be spearheading the 2-week effort, with some 20 personnel involved. This DXpedition may be the prelude to a much-anticipated Heard Island DXpedition in 2014/2015.

Station Projects. Bob, W1RH, has been working with Dean, N6BV, on the antenna modeling for phased horizontally separated Yagis, directed toward the east coast. Since the six towers supporting them will be only 15 feet high, they'll require no guying.

Committee Reports. Dick, K6LRN, reported that plans remain in process for in-club awards. He also reminded members that the DX Marathon will be on-going all year: work as many DX stations as possible, and no QSLs are required.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Future Meeting Dates, Venues and Presentations.

The February meeting will be held on the 9th, with a possible venue of Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martell. [Note: Due to a scheduling conflict, the venue has since been changed to Los Pinos Restaurant in Cameron Park.]. The March meeting will be held on the 23rd, venue to be announced. Future venues in discussion are still Galt, Auburn, Roseville, Cameron Park, Martell and WK6I's winery in Murphys. Possible presentations include log checking by Bob, W1RH, with a workshop log check session of Rich, WC6H's CQP log; Jim, K9YC, contesting on a small lot; N6AA, DXing in all 40 zones; Alan, K6SRZ, as a DXpedition doctor; Dean, N6BV, terrain/HFTA; N6RC, remote radio operation; Stu, K6TU, software defined radios and re-

mote station operation; and Rick, W6SR, antenna modeling/10 GHz contest.

Club Focus and Upcoming Contests. Bob, W1RH, reviewed the NCCC/MLDXCC Club calendar, which reflects future contest focus and support. Sweepstakes will be an NCCC-focused contest this year, with the MLDXCC donating our points to the "mother club", and we will also support the NCCC on the 13 February NAQP RTTY contest.

NEW BUSINESS.

Membership. Applications for membership were received from Pat, K6OQ, Rick, K6LE and John, K6YK. These applications were reviewed by the membership in attendance, voted on and approved, and Pat, Rick and John were welcomed as new members.

Joint Meeting. Plans are not locked in as yet, but discussions include the possibility of a May date, with either K5ZD talking on CQ WW as a contest or N6AA on DX'ing in all 40 zones as presentation possibilities.

Adjournment and Program Presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. After a short break, Alan, AD6E and George, N6NKT, presented their program on the 3D2C Conway Reef DXpedition.

WC6H	RICH	VALLEY SPRINGS	X	X
W6DE	DAVE	PLA-CERVILLE	X	X
W6VMT	VERN	PLA-CERVILLE	X	X
AD6E	ALAN	SAN JOSE	X	X
N6NKT		GEORGE		SAN JOSE
K6BEW	BRANDT	JACKSON	X	X
WD6EIW	JOHN	SACRAMENTO		X
K6OK	JIM	CARMICHAEL	X	X
N6RK	RICK	GALT	X	X
W6HFM	HARRY	PILOT HILL	X	X
N6MCM	MEL	EL DORADO HILLS		X
K6OQ	PAT	OAKDALE	X	X
AE6Y	ANDY	MONTE SERENO	X	X
K6LE	RICK	MODESTO	X	X
K6YK	JOHN	STOCKTON		X
K6SCA	STEVE	FIDDLETOWN		X

List of those present.	NAME	QTH	MLDXCC	NCCC
K6KO	KAY	PINE GROVE	X	X
K6TA	KEN	PINE GROVE	X	X
W6SR	RICK	PLA-CERVILLE	X	X
N6JV	NORM	SACRAMENTO	X	X
N6JV/XYL	MARY			SACRAMENTO
W6KJ	RON			YUBA CITY
N6YLO	JO ANNE			YUBA CITY
W6RD	CHUCK	MODESTO	X	X
W6RFF	JETTIE	ROSEVILLE	X	X
W1RH	BOB	LOTUS	X	X
AA6K	SHIRL	STOCKTON	X	X
K6TKD	CAROLYN	OMO RANCH	X	X
K6LRN	DICK	OMO RANCH	X	X
K6QG	LYLE	VALLEY SPRINGS	X	X
WB6FSE	DENISE			VALLEY SPRINGS

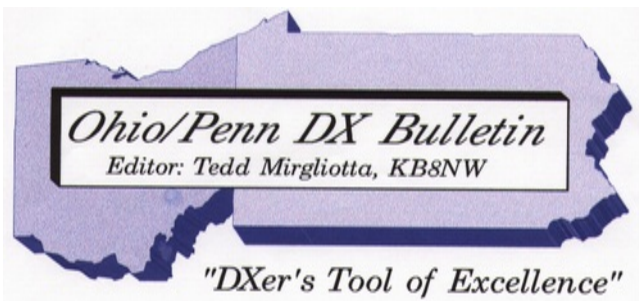
Kay Anderson, K6KO Secretary

Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.

<http://mldxcc.org/scores.html>

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming Announced DXpeditions:
<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>



OPDX Bulletin 1098 February 4, 2013

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster
DX Bulletin No. 1098
BID: \$OPDX.1098
February 4, 2013
Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
Provided by BARF80.ORG
(Cleveland, Ohio)

2013 FD PACKET NOW AVAILABLE

The ARRL states, "It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 22-23, 2013! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. For the complete announcement, go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/2013-field-day-packet-now-available>

For the FD packet:

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

3D2/R, ROTUMA

Antoine, 3D2AG, will once again be active as 3D2AG/p from **Rotuma (OC-060)** between late March/April. He states, "Now looking for spare parts for my 14-years-old ICOM 706-MKII, which is faulty (no TX). If anyone can help please contact me, so that I can be operational on 6m from Rotuma. Thanks in

advance." His E-mail address is on QRZ.com. He also mentions, "QSL direct only to Fiji address. Please include at least two green stamps or one IRC with AIRMAIL SAE for first class return postage. After intense lobbying by 3D2AG, IRCS are now exchangeable at the normal UPU rate in Fiji. Please don't forget to put an airmail label on your return envelope, and write your country name clearly."

5X, UGANDA (Reminder)

Members of the F6KOP team are expected to be active as 5X8C between February 6-18th, from a location some 20 Km from Entebbe airport.

CORRECTION/OOOPPPSS DEPARTMENT

In [OPDX.1097](#), under "NH0, MARIANA ISLANDS (Update)", we mentioned that YL Miho/JJ2VLY was Joe's/JA1LZR XYL; this is incorrect. It should have read: "JJ2VLY (YL Miho (Yutaka's [JQ2GYU] XYL, also WS2M))".

CT9, MADEIRA ISLANDS

Operators Jozef/OM3GI, Tibor/OM3RM and Julius/OM7JG will be active as CR3A during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 16-17th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via OM2VL.

D4, CAPE VERDE (Correction/Update)

Mats, SM7GIB, will be active as D44TIB from **Cape Verde (AF-086)** until February 7th (not between February 25th and March 8th). Activity will be holiday style using a K3 into a wire vertical for 160-10 meters. Look for him

to be on the radio in the early mornings and evenings - on CW. QSL via his home callsign.

E6, NIUE

Operators Alan/VK4WR and Graeme/VK4FI will be active as E6RQ and E6SG, respectively, from **Niue (OC-040)** between March 22-29th. Their activity will focus on 6 meters as well as some HF operations. QSL both callsigns via VK4FI.

FG, GUADELOUPE

Oliver, F6ARC, is now active as FG/F6ARC from **Guadeloupe (NA-102)** until February 14th. Activity will be holiday style with a focus on 40 and 30 meters CW, using wire antennas. QSL via FE11DX, by the Bureau or direct (see QRZ.com).

FS & PJ7, ST. MARTIN AND SINT MAARTEN

Andy, DK5ON, will be active as FS/DK5ON from **French St. Martin (NA-105, WLOTA 0383)** and PJ7/DK5ON from Dutch Sint Maarten (NA-105, WLOTA 0711, DIFO FS-001) between March 10-29th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters, including 17/12 meters, using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via DK5ON, direct or by the Bureau. No eQSL.

IOTA NEWS

AF-019. An international team of operators will be active as IG9Y from **Lampedusa Island** between October 17-30th. Operators mentioned are Khalid/A61BK, Gianni/IT9BUN, Don/JH5GHM, Dale/N3BNA, Frederic/ON4LG, Frank/ON9CC, Aurelio/PC5A, Romeo/S52RU, Peter/S54W and Drago/S59A. Activity will be on

160-6 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY, with four stations on the air. The team will be in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 26-27th) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via ON4LG. An OQRS will be available for direct and Bureau cards. Visit their Web page at:

<http://ig9.ii9p.com>

AS-085. Members from the Korea Contest Club will be active as D85C from **Chongsan Island (WLOTA 1602)** between June 6-9th. More details to be forthcoming.

EU-120. Operators Terry/G3VFC, Keith/M0KJA, Fred/M0RFD, Rob/M0VFC, Dave/M6KOM, Maureen/M6VFC and Richard/2E1EVK will be active as GX5MW/p from the **Isle of Wight (WLOTA 2985)** between March 16-23rd. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. QSL via M0RFD, direct or by the Bureau.

NA-143. Joe, K5KUA, will once again operate portable from **Galveston Island (USI TX001S, Galveston County, TX)** in the Gulf of Mexico between February 15-17th. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands. QSL via K5KUA, direct or by the Bureau.

OC-129. Chris, OE9MON, is now active as DU6/OE9MON from **Panay Island**. He is there on holiday with his family, and the length of his stay is not known. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using wire antennas. QSL via LZ1JZ, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

OC-245. Rohadi, YB6AR, and several other operators will be active from **Bunta Island** between

February 15-17th. Operators are expected to use portable callsigns (YB6AR/P etc). Activity will be on 40/30/20/15/10 meters using SSB and RTTY. They plan to use five transceivers with 500 watt amps. All their antennas are homebrew (verticals, yagis and Spiderbeam). QSL via the operator's instructions.

ISWL CALLSIGNS (For February)

The following ISWL club callsigns will be used throughout the month of February 2013:

GX4BJC/A - Operated from Bream, in Gloucestershire, by Chris, G0SDD. (/A WAB Square SO60, England, IOTA **EU-005** and WLOTA LH-1841)

MX1SWL/A - Operated from Hartford, in Cambridgeshire, by Tom, G3RPV. (/A WAB Square TL27, England, IOTA **EU-005** and WLOTA LH-1841)

ALL QSLs will be handled by Herbie, G6XOU, and NOT the individual operator. The I.S.W.L. is a member of the European PSK Club. All QSL info is on www.iswl.org.uk or www.qrz.com or via www.qrz.com NO LoTW. I.S.W.L. Awards are available to all Hams and SWLs, see for full details. The eQSL.cc cards ARE welcomed for their awards.

J8, ST. VINCENT

Dave, G3TBK, will once again be active as J88DR between February 14th and March 11th. Activity will include the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 16-17th) and the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2-3rd) as a Single- Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. He will also be in the RSGB's 75th Commonwealth Contest (March 9-10th). Activity outside of the

contest will be on all HF bands, especially 30/17/12 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via G3TBK, direct or by the RSGB Bureau.

JD1, OGASAWARA (Update)

Three JA operators will be active from **Chichijima Island (AS-031)** in the Ogasawara group between April 28th and May 5th. The callsigns to be used are JD1BLC (Operator Toshi/JP1IOF) and JD1YBT (World Wide Club station callsign). Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FM. QSL JD1BLC via JP1IOF direct or by the Bureau to JD1BLC. QSL JD1YBT via JP1IOF direct or by the Bureau to JD1YBT. Also, LoTW and an OQRS (via ClubLog) will be available for both callsigns at:

<https://secure.clublog.org/logsearch/JD1YBT>

<https://secure.clublog.org/logsearch/JD1BLC>

KP2, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Operators Philip/KT3Y, Frederick/K9VV and Robert/WP2XX will be active from the KP2M rental shack on **St. Croix Island (NA-106)** during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 16-17th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via AI4U (DIRECT ONLY) OR LoTW. NO BUREAU QSLs.

KP2, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Look for operators and callsigns Munekazu/JI3DNN (KP2/KI3DNN), Yoshiaki "Aki"/JR3QFB (KP2/W3JH), Yoshiro/JL3SIK (KP2/K2JA), Takeshi "TAKE"/JS6RRR and KP2/NH2KY (Club callsign) to be active from the U.S. Virgin Island between March 13-19th. Activity

will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and JT65A. Check QRZ.com for QSL details.

KP2, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Before his JD1YBT and JD1BLC Ogasawara operations (see JD1 above), Toshi, JP1IOF, will be active as WH7P/KP2 from U.S. Virgin Islands between April 3-9th. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via JP1IOF, by the Bureau or direct. Also, LoTW and an OQRS (via ClubLog) will be available at:

<https://secure.clublog.org/logsearch/WH7P/KP2>

LX, LUXEMBOURG

Philippe/LX2A and a team of operators will be active as LX7I from Eschdorf during the CQWW WPX RTTY Contest (February 9-10th) as a Multi-2 entry, and the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 16-17th) as a Multi- Single entry. QSL via LX2A. QSL via LX2A. Visit the following Web page at:

<http://www.lx2a.com>

MJ, JERSEY

Richrad, M5RIC, will be active as GJ2A for the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2-3rd). QSL route

(See <http://www.qrz.com/db>)

NODXA'S MEMBER RTTY ACHIEVEMENT

The ARRL RTTY Honor roll contains 124 callsigns. Northern Ohio DX Association (NODXA) member "Scotty", WK3N, joined their ranks this week with his approved submission bringing him a total of 334 confirmed on RTTY. Scotty is the second NODXA

member to achieve this status, Don, K8MFO, was our first.

KH6BZF PROPAGATION

FORECAST/REPORT (February 4-10th)

Feb/04th AN	Feb/07th AN	Feb/09th AN
Feb/05th AN	Feb/08th AN	Feb/10th AN
Feb/06th AN		

SOLAR REFERENCE KEYS/INDEXES AND GEOMAGNETIC REFERENCE

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      NORMALITY      GEOMAG      K Values      Alpha
      -----      -
AN - Above Normal Quiet      K=0-1      0-7
HN - High Normal Unsettled      K=2      8-15
LN - Low Normal Active      K=3      16-29
BN - Below Normal Minor Storm      K=4      30-49
DIS - Disturbed Major Storm      K=5      50-99
VRY DISVery DisturbeSevere Storm      K=6-9      100-400

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MU0, GUERNSEY

Operators Peter/2E0SQL, Louis/2U0FER, Mark/M0MJH, Iain/ M0PCB, Dan/M0TCB and Steve/M0SPF will be active as MU0HTJ from Guernsey (EU-114, WLOTA 0013) for the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 17-18th). QSL via 2E0SQL, direct or by the Bureau. For more info and updates, visit their Blog page at:

<http://blog.hamtests.co.uk>

P4, ARUBA

Howard, WA2NHA, will once again be active as P4/WA2NHA between March 3-17th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters mainly CW. QSL via his home callsign.

PJ2, CURACAO

Ulf, DL5AXX, will be active as PJ2/DL5AXX from Curacao (SA-099, WLOTA LH-0942) between February 24th and March 11th. Activity will be holiday style on 80-10 meters using mainly CW with some RTTY. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. He does prefer his OQRS at:

<http://www.dl5axx.de/dxlog/default.aspx?Logid=75>

PJ2, CURACAO

A group of operators will activate PJ2T, the Caribbean Contesting Consortium's (CCC) Signal Point Station on **Curacao (SA-099, WLOTA LH-0942)** between February 13-20th. Activity will be on all bands and modes, but their main operations will be during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 16-17th) as a Multi-Op entry. QSL PJ2T via LoTW or W3HNK. Look for operators to possibly be active before and after the contest using their own PJ2/homecall callsigns. QSL via their home callsigns unless where indicated. Operators mentioned are John/K9QVB, Howie/K9KM, Kelly/ N0VD (via W3HNK), Mal/NP2L, Andy/W9NJY (via WD9DZV), Bill/W9VA and Geoff/PJ2DX. Some operators will use LoTW.

QSL INFO AND NEWS

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX (dated February 3rd)

3D2OU via N7OU EH3FCM via
EA3HP OE2013WLE via OE6WLE
5B/SQ2MGM via SQ2MGM G5W via G3BJ
OO7W via ON4AUP
A65BM via W4JS GM100RSGB
via M0FVC OU2I via OZ1BII
AN1DJ via EC1DJ HK1X via
EA7FTR OX3XR via PA3249
(d/L/e)
CR2V via HB9CRV HR2/NP3J via
EA5GL PT5T via K3IRV
CT7/EA1AF via EA1AF I/DM1CM via
DM1CM (L/e) RA4HKM/0 via RW4HW
DB100AWPB via DO6NIK J42T via
SV7LOS SU0ERA via SU1SK
DL8XO/HI9 via DL8XO KH2RU/KP4
via NP30 (d) TC150RC via TA1HZ
DU6/OE9MON via LZ1JZ LZ13FDAY via
LZ-Bureau TM850N via F4GFE
DU9AQQ via EA5GL OE2013PEN
via OE5PEN TZ6BB via W3HNK

ED1RCR via EA1RCR OE2013SPW
via OE8SPW ZF2BJ via ZF2BJ
EG3ICR via EA3EF OE2013VSW
via OE3VSW

(e) eQSL only (d) direct only
(B) Bureau only (L) LoTW only
PA3249: Harry de Jong, Broekdijk 59,
7695TC Bruchterveld, The Netherlands

4W3DX & 4W6MM QSL ROUTE CHANGE

Phil, G3SWH, has been appointed as QSL Manager for Thor's, TF4M, operations from Timor Leste between 2000 and 2003 as 4W3DX and 4W6MM. There are log searches at:

<http://www.g3swh.org.uk/4w3dx.html>
<http://www.g3swh.org.uk/4w6mm.html>

QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW: 3V8BB, 9J3A, 9Y4D, CT3DZ, CT8/EA5KA, CU3EJ, EA7TG, HK1R, J77A, JA6JNF, KL7J, KP2/K5WE, KV4FZ, LY7Z, OH8A, PJ2T, PY0FO, RV6A, SN3R, T77C, TZ7BB, VA2EW, VE3EJ, VE3FU, VE6BMX, VP2MSW, VP2V/K6TOP, VY2CM, YS3CW, YV6BFE, YY4DNN and ZX2F

QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 3D2C, 5W1SA, 5Z4/DL7UCX, 7O6T, 7P8D, 7W50I, A92GR, AH0/N0AT, AH0KT, BV7GC, C6AVA, CP4BT, D64K, FM5BH, FR4NT, HH2/9A7GAE, J79WE, JD1BMH, LZ1ANA, PJ4LS, PJ5J, V26E, V26HS, V84SMD, WP2XX, ZD9UW and ZS6DJJ

QSLs RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU: 40/OK1IEC, 40/OK4ZW, 5R8HL, 5R8IC, 6W1RY, C50C, CN2DJ, ET3TK, EY8/F4EGS, FG/F6BFH, FG4NO, FG8NY, FK/F4BKV, FO8RZ, FR1FF, FY/F6CKD, HB0/F5PAC, HB0/OK1XD, HB0/OK6DJ/P, HR1RTF, IS0R, JW/F8DVD, KP2/AA1TR, MU/F5CWU, MU/F5NHJ, OH0/WS4T, OX/OK1JST, OX4OK, PJ4L, SV9/OK1AMM/P, TB0DX, TC03W, TC07DX, TC098A, TJ3AY, TK/F8DZY,

**TK12IOTA, TO5A, TO11A/P, TT8PK
and ZA/OK1MBZ**

T6, AFGHANISTAN

Eric, K9GY, will be active as T6MO from the Helmand Province (Grid MM21) during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 16-17th) as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry. He states that he will probably be active during the first 28 hours or so, and it may be a Single-Band effort. QSL via LoTW or to K9GY (see QRZ.com) direct or by the Bureau. ADDED NOTE: Eric will also be active during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 30-31st) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (possibly 15 or 10m)/Low-Power.

**TX5, CLIPPERTON ISLAND
(Update)**

The March TX5K Clipperton Island DX- pedition Web page now has a new URL:

<http://tx5k.org>

The current updated list of operators are Bob/KK6EK (Organizer, Expedition Leader), Christian/DL1MGB (Co-organizer), Walt/N6XG (Logistics), Ed/KE3D, Igor/US0VA (Doctor), Robert/SP5XVY, Dietmar/DL3DXX, Dave/WJ20, Luis/XE1L, Mathias/DJ2HD, Mike/WA60, Yann/F1NGP, Andreas/DL5CW, Roman/US5WDX, Rick/ KF4ZZ, Heye/DJ9RR, Lance/W7GJ (6m), Tom/DL5LYM, Jef/DD2CW, Giovanni/ I5JHW, Ken/OZ1IKY, Markus/DJ7EO, Gerhard/DJ5IW and Carlos/NP4IW (Logistics). Louis-Philippe Loncke will be there for documentation.

There are four honorary team members: Chod Harris/VP2ML (SK - DXpedition Dedication), Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa/JH1AJT (Honorary DXpedition Leader), Conrad Limbaugh (Expedition Dedication) and Dan Gotshall (Honorary Expedition Leader).

The "Technology Development" team members are: Bob/N200 is the QSL Manager, Peter/W6OP and Dean/N7XG are Software Development, Rich/KY6R (Social Media), Alan/AD6E (Satellite Communications), Dean/N6BV (Radio Propagation Modeling) and Felipe (Internet Data).

Regional Coordinators (pilots) are: Gary/DF2RG (Chief Pilot, Germany), Marcus/DL9RCF (Germany), Stan/KH6CG (Hawaii), Col/MM0NDX (Scotland), Cesar/PY2YP (Brazil), Andre/V51B (Namibia), Bill/VK4FW (Australia), XE2HWJ (Mexico) and Rex/NR6M (USA).

There will be four members on the Scientific Program team, and one is a ham - Alain/F6BFH. The vessel Shogun will leave from San Diego on February 19th. Schedule/Tentative activity dates are between February 28th and March 10th.

V6, MICRONESIA

Mike, WB7DXA, will be active as V63DXA in Micronesia between February 21st and March 21st. While there, he plans to operate from the **islands of Kosrae (OC-059)**, Pohnpei (OC-010) and possibly Mokil and Pingelap Atolls (OC-226).

He informs OPDX [edited], "I am sailing on a boat with a marine radio. The captain believes it works on 20 meters and possibly some additional bands. He isn't a ham so he can't try it out. So I am hoping that it works out when I get there. As it stands I arrive into Kosrae on February 23rd. Then leave Pohnpei on March 22nd. I plan to operate

from Kosrae for about a week and then on to the **Atolls (OC-226)** on the way to Pohnpei, but it all depends on WX and other factors. As far as bands, I think 20 meters phone is what I am looking to operate mostly. I'll bring a key for CW just in case I can get it going. The other bands will need to be determined after I get there." Mike plans on using LoTW as the primary QSL vehicle, but you can send cards direct to him or by the Bureau.

VP2, MONTSEERRAT

Will, AA4NC, will be active as VP2ME from **Montserrat (NA-103, WLOTA 1475)** between February 13-20th. Activity will include an entry in the ARRL CW DX Contest (February 16-17th). Outside the contest, he will be on RTTY, CW, and SSB mainly on the 30/17/12 meter bands. QSL via LoTW.

VP2, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (NA-106)

Matt, K0BBC, (along with his XYL Valeriw, K0VAL) will be heading south and will once again be active as KP2/K0BBC from the Hull Bay Cottages on St. Thomas Island (USI VI004S) between February 26th and March 5th. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands. Matt plans to be active in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2-3rd). QSL via K0BBC, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

WP2, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (NA-106)

Operators Stan/K8MJZ, Fred/NP2X, Robert/WP2XX and possibly others will be active from the Island

Villa Contest Club WP2Z superstation on St. Croix during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 30-31st) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via KU9C.

WRTC-2014 NEWS RELEASE #15 (WRTC2014 Names Judging Committee)

An excerpt from a press release dated January 31st states: "WRTC2014, Inc., host of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship competition is pleased to announce the judging committee that will be responsible for certifying the results of the competition. David Sumner, K1ZZ, will serve as Chief Judge leading the committee of Nodir Tursoon-Zadeh, EY8MM, Don Field, G3XTT, Dan Street, K1TO, and Dick Norton, N6AA." To read the whole press release, go to:

<http://www.wrtc2014.org/wrtc2014-names-judging-committee>

XR2, CHILE (Chilean Lighthouse)

Manuel, CE2UNE, will be active as XR2BH from the Puerto Aldea (Caleta Hornilla) Lighthouse (NAC 133, ARLHS CHI-110, Admiralty G1896.20) between February 20-24th which also includes the "Weekend South American Lighthouses" event (February 22-24th). The beacon is located in Tongoy Bay, near the village of Puerto Aldea, Elqui Province, Coquimbo Region, Chile (WW Loc. FF49EQ). QSL XR2BH via CE2AA (QRZ.com).

XT, BURKINA FASO (Update to OPDX.1097/Callsign Change)
Members of the "Italian

DXpedition Team" will be active as XT2TT (not XT1T as first announced) from Ouagadougou (Grid Loc. IK92fi), Burkina Faso, between February 21st and March 6th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL I2YSB for direct QSLs and IK2CIO for Bureau QSLs (no E-mail request please). A OQRS will be available for direct cards only. Now available on their Web page is a survey for both bands and modes needs. The official Web site is:

<http://www.i2ysb.com/idt>

Official forum is:

<http://www.hamradioweb.org>

XU, CAMBODIA

John, KF0RQ, will once again be active as XU7ACQ but from a new location (east and west Cambodia) between February 10th and March 18th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. He is still looking for Delaware and South Dakota for his WAS. QSL via KF0RQ. Online logsearch is available at ClubLog.

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN (Update)

Massimo, IZ0EGB (ex-9L1MS, EL2GB), informs OPDX that he is now living in Juba, South Sudan, and plans to be on the air as Z81B soon. He will be using 600 watts into wire antennas for 40-6 meters, and operate on SSB and the Digital modes. Massimo adds that the equipment is installed already and was expected to be on the air this past week. Occasionally, Massimo will operate from other locations using only 100 watts into a T2FD (a terminated, tilted and folded

dipole) operating SSB only. QSL via IZ0EGB: Alessandro Colasanti, Via Pia Nalli 30, 00134 Rome, Italy. Massimo states, "Colleagues should please avoid sending IRC coupons. Alessandro will periodically upload my log onto LoTW and ClubLog."

ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS

Dave, N4QS, will be active as ZF2DP from Georgetown, **Grand Cayman (NA-016**, WLOTA 1042), between February 8-12th. Activity will be from the ZF1A club station and running low power using his Elecraft K3. He plans to be active during the CQ WPX RTTY Contest (February 9-10th), and will also operate some CW and SSB on the days before and after the contest -- primarily on the WARC bands. He will attempt to upload his log to ClubLog in real-time using the N1MM Gateway. You can see if you are in his log by clicking here:

<https://secure.clublog.org/logsearch/ZF2DP>

QSL via LoTW or his home callsign.

ZS8, MARION ISLAND

There has been an announcement by various sources that a second operator will be active from Marion Island. Pierre, ZS1HF, is reporting that Carson, ZR6CWI, has been appointed as the Space Weather Engineer on Marion Island between April 2013 and May 2014. Carson has just completed a one year work assignment at the SANAE (South African National Antarctic Expedition) Antarctic Base and is expected to be back in Cape

Town on February 19th. Carson informed Pierre that he will be active from Marion Island over this period. No callsign has been allocated yet. His QSL Manager will be ZS1HF/ZS8M. At this stage SSB only. No further info is available. Stay tuned!

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)

For the latest contest info. click on the following link:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

February 2013

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 8
+ YLRL YL-OM Contest	1400Z, Feb 8 to 0200Z, Feb 10
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 10
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 9 to 0300Z, Feb 10
+ OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 9 to 1500Z, Feb 10
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 9 to 0400Z, Feb 10 and 1200Z-2200Z, Feb 10
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 15
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 15
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 17 to 2100Z, Feb 18
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 16
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 22 to 2159Z, Feb 24
Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 23 to 0300Z, Feb 24
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 23 to 0559Z, Feb 24
North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 24 to 0059Z, Feb 25

March 2013

+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 2 to 2400Z, Mar 3
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+ Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 9 to 1900Z, Mar 10
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 10
+ Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 10 to 0100Z, Mar 11
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 16 to 0200Z, Mar 18
+ North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 17
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 30 to 2400Z, Mar 31

April 2013

+ Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 20 to 0400Z, Apr 21
+ Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 20 to 1800Z, Apr 21
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Apr 20
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 21
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 27 to 2159Z, Apr 28

The K7RA Solar Update

QST de W1AW
 Propagation Forecast Bulletin 5 ARLP005
 From Tad Cook, K7RA
 Seattle, WA February 1, 2013
 To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP005
 ARLP005 Propagation de K7RA

Sunspot numbers and solar flux barely changed in the past week. Average daily sunspot numbers were 55.7, down slightly from 56.4 the previous week, and average daily solar flux was 98.7, down from 110.7. Geomagnetic conditions continued their quiet spell.

The most active day was Saturday, January 26, when both the mid-latitude and planetary A index was 18, and Alaska's college A index was 46.

The predicted solar flux is 100 for February 1, 105 on February 2-5,

110 on February 6-7, 120 and 125 on February 8-9, 120 on February 10-11, then 115, 110 and 105 on February 12-14, 110 on February 15-18, 105 on February 19-23, 95 on February 24-25, 110 on February 26, and 125 on February 27 through March 1. Flux values peak again at 140 on March 3-4.

The predicted planetary A index is 5 on February 1, then 12, 18, 15 and 8 on February 2-5, 5 on February 6-8, 8 on February 9-10, 5 on February 11-18, 8 on February 19, 5 on February 20-21, then 15, 10 and 8 on February 22-24, 5 on February 25 through March 7, and 8 on March 8-9.

OK1HH believes we will see quiet conditions on February 1-3, quiet to unsettled February 4, mostly quiet February 5, quiet to active February 6, mostly quiet February 7, quiet to unsettled February 8, quiet to active February 9-10, quiet to unsettled February 11, mostly quiet February 12, quiet to active February 13-14, active to disturbed February 15, quiet to unsettled February 16, quiet on February 17-21, active to disturbed February 22, quiet to unsettled February 23 and quiet February 24.

Regular readers know we've been tracking a three-month moving average of sunspot numbers for several years now. The average daily sunspot number for the three calendar months ending January 31 was 82.8, better than last month, but nothing like the numbers we saw over a year ago in fall 2011.

The three-month averages for the past year, the months ending in February 2012 through January 2013 were 83.3, 73.7, 71.2, 87.3, 91.5, 96.5, 91.9, 89.9, 81.2, 82.3, 74.4 and 82.8.

The one month average sunspot number for January was 98.9, the highest monthly average since May and July of last year.

Until recently experts predicted this cycle would probably peak in Spring of 2013, which begins in less than seven weeks. But later predictions moved it out to Fall of 2013, with slightly lower numbers. We had a period of higher solar activity in November and December of 2011, which led some to believe that perhaps the cycle had peaked early. Others believe we may see a double-peak in this cycle, as we have in some earlier solar cycles.

We should see seasonal improvements in HF conditions in the Spring and again in the Fall. By seasonal, I mean that even if we saw no change in solar activity, just due to the season and position of the Sun relative to us, we see better conditions on the higher frequencies in Spring and Fall than we tend to see in Summer and Winter.

There is a hypothesis which posits that we may see a grand minimum, decades of depressed sunspot numbers, but of course that cannot be proven by observation in the next decade or two. I hope it isn't true. I hope we see future activity which is strong and surprises everyone, but I wouldn't count on it. I was licensed during the low point between Cycle 19 (the biggest in history) and Cycle 20, and along with many others have been wishing for decades to see another like Cycle 19. But Cycle 19 turned out to be a rarity. But just like Cycle 19 surprised many people, I hope we can be surprised again.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#).

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

Information may be reproduced provided credit is given MLDXCC.

Comments or questions on this bureau's operation may be directed to kc6awx@arrl.net See the W6 Bureau-home.

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